Target for KVKs

†421. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a target had been set for setting up Krishi Vigyan Kendras in about 588 rural districts of the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian Council of Agriculture Research has an extensive network of Krishi Vigyan Kendras under it in about 492 Districts; and

(c) if so, the contribution of Krishi Vigyan Kendras, so far, in enhancing knowledge of farmers alongwith increase in agriculture produce according to set targets with complete details thereof in the light of coming declared plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Government have approved for setting up Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), one in each of the 578 rural districts in the country (as per India 2002) by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research during X Plan, of which 537 have been sanctioned.

(c) A number of factors contribute to increase in agriculture produce including improved technology generated by National Agricultural Research System, extension systems operated by development departments, and policy environment. In order to enhance the knowledge and skill of farmers on improved agricultural technology, during the first four years of X Plan (2002-03 to 2005-06), 26.7 lakh farmers were trained by the KVKs, besides creating awareness by organizing a large number of extension activities including kisan melas, field days, kisan goshties, exhibitions, radio and TV talks, and publication of extension literature.

Recommendations of teams sent to suicide hit regions

422. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of incidents of suicide committed by farmers in

†Original notice of question was received in Hindi.

Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu since May, 2004;

(b) the details of official delegations, including number of visits made, sent by Government to the regions affected with incidents of suicides by farmers, State-wise;

(c) the summary of findings and recommendations made by each delegation in respect of the regions so visited; and

(d) the net-outcome therof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (d) The requisite information is being obtained and shall be laid on the table of the House.

Food security

†423. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food security faces serious threat in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that production of foodgrains is on the decline; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. There is no serious threat to food security in the country.

(b) No, Sir. The total food grains production in 2004-05 was 198.36 Million Tonnes whereas as per 4th Advance Estimates as on 15th July, 2006 the estimated foodgrains production in 2005-06 is 208.30 Million Tonnes.

(c) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.